# HET Users Committee
# Meeting Minutes 2020 May 11

Members Present: W. Cochran. G. Zeimann, W. Kollatschny, S. Janowiecki, C. Morley, H. Lee, M. Fabricius, P. MacQueen, S. Mahadevan, D. Fox

Status reports:

- The HET is operating during the COVID19 quarantine with the Telescope Operator on-site at HET and the Resident Astronomer operating remotely. $CO_2$ cleaning of the mirror continues on 3 days per week. Segment swapping has been suspended.
- VIRUS now has 70 units deployed at HET. Four VIRUS units are in the lab, with three to be installed at HET soon. Various multiplexer and electronics issues are being addressed. The supply of new CCDs has dried up, but we are hopeful that this will be addressed soon.
- LRS2 and HPF continue in routine operation with no significant issues.

Software:

- Goldilocks HPF reductions now run at 11:30am each day. This gives the PI time to examine the data from the previous night and to provide appropriate feedback to the RAs in time for the next night's observations. No significant problems have been encountered so far.
- The REMEDY VIRUS pipeline is maturing. This enables reduction of VIRUS parallel observations and typical HETDEX dithered observations.

Feedback to users has been augmented to include guide-star metrology and HET pupil illumination.

HET RAs now have access to the actual telescope proposals for all programs. This helps inform real time decisions they must make at the telescope.

The HET web pages now post these minutes of the HET Users Committee, so they are available to all HET users.

Target names have been replaced by target numbers in the public night reports. However, any data can be retrieved by any HET user on TACC/wrangler. Implementing effective data security on TACC would be a particularly difficult task within the current structure. We will stay aware of this particular issue and we will deal with it if it becomes a problem in the future.

The search for a new HET RA is progressing.

The Users Committee had an extensive discussion regarding the total amount of HET time available for TACs to assign for partner science observations. This is a complex issue, as significant amounts of time have been dedicated to various engineering, commissioning and GTO needs. The 2020-2 scheduling period had a total of 500.74 hours of anticipated "clear science" time (which excludes normal "operations engineering" time of 20 hours). The total additional time committed for 2020-2 is 323 hours. Of this, 185 hours is HETDEX and 138 hours

is instrument GTO/engineering/commissioning time. This leaves a total of 177.74 hours available for HET partner TACs to assign to their users.

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| HET operations engineering | 20 hours in 2020-2 |
| HET Image Quality engineering | 30 |
| HETDEX | 185 |
| VIRUS commissioning | 15 |
| LRS2 GTO | 10 |
| LRS2 commissioning | 10 |
| HPF GTO | 20 |
| HPF commissioning | 20 |
| HPF engineering | 33 |

In a discussion of the actual use of these special allocations of time, it became clear that the distinction between instrument "engineering" and "commissioning" time is a grey area. Both of these allocations are used to ensure that the instruments fully meet their science requirement and serve the user community.

**The HET Users Committee requests that the instrument teams document their use of "engineering" and "commissioning" time and that they make these reports available to the HET user community on the HET web site.**

The Users Committee then discussed the issue of whether the current mechanism of allowing HETDEX time to be interrupted to accomplish high priority science observations by other users was functioning effectively. The HET Board has allowed some fraction of time that would normally be used for HETDEX observations to be interrupted by other targets. The member TACs can use P0 time to accomplish this type of interrupt. However, the TACs must also use their P0 time for any type of program that requires highest priority time to ensure completion due to extremely limited observational opportunities or a specific time of observation which conflicts with the HETDEX field. This would include high priority TOO observations, or high priority "rare" but know events such as the transit of an exoplanet. Some of these will end up interrupting HETDEX, and some will not. The HETUC is investigating whether the amount of P0 time available to the TACs is adequate to meet the current need for HETDEX interrupts by TAC assigned science targets. (Subsequent to the HETUC meeting, it became known that some amount of the current HETDEX interruptions are for GTO or commissioning/engineering observations. We are requesting a breakdown of the actual types of interrupt observations.)